



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Kgautswane transforms for the benefit of local youths

Writer: Jacob Molete – GCIS Gauteng

When Kgautswane Thusong Service Centre was launched in 2000, it was the first of its kind in Limpopo. The centre provides integrated one-stop services to communities through the development communication approach. Twelve years after the centre opened its doors, it is still going strong and the centre management is embarking on transforming the centre to emancipate youth through developmental projects.



Suzan Moraba in her chicken farm stall at the Kgautswane Thusong Service Centre

According to the centre manager, Clara Masinga, there is a paradigm shift in running community developmental projects around the Globe. "We feel we should not be left behind. We need new ideas and fresh minds to tackle the challenges of unemployment the country is facing."

One of the projects initiated at the centre involving youths is Smite IT Infor-preneur, which uses e-commerce to order stock for the local shops. According

to Simon Mothumi, who runs the programme, they also do DVD/CD recordings and video editing. "We also help companies that are doing research projects and also help in developmental projects," he said.

World Wide from Michigan in the United States of America supports the Tlemaganang Fence-Making Project, which is run by four youths whose ages range from 21 to 34.

As a result of the business-hype in the centre, one youth saw a possible niche market and started a little restaurant, which is proving to be quite successful. They cook meals for the people coming to the centre to access services and the locals enjoy it.

There is also a chicken farm at the centre, which according to Suzan Moraba, started with 1 000 chicks. This year, she is expecting a tidy profit. Another group of young people have started a piggery project adjacent to the chicken farm and they are also positive about their new venture, as there is big demand for white meat.



Some of the Kgautswane youth busy at the Tlemaganang Fence-Making Project.



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Government takes SoNA to pensioners

On 14 June 2012, during a pension pay-out day at the Bohlokong community hall in Bethlehem, the Government Communication and Information System, together with community development workers (CDWs) of Dihlabeng Local Municipality, conducted an outreach event to communicate the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) to pensioners in the community.

The SoNA was delivered by President Jacob Zuma during the opening of Parliament on 9 February 2012. The SoNA is important for all South Africans because it tells us what government's Programme of Action (PoA) is for the year ahead.

This event also created a platform for the South African Social Security Agency to communicate to the senior citizens of Dihlabeng how the new card system of collecting their social grants works, and why government resorted to such a system as a form of paying social grants.

The new card system will enable them to draw their pension, for example, from a bank and not



have to stand in long queues on pension day. Judging by the smaller number of pensioners who was queuing on the day, it is clear that government is constantly improving services for the elderly.

Mantwa Motshoeneng from Ward 8, Bohlokong, said she never expected that government would explain its priorities and plans to her. She thought government only came to her when it was in need of her vote. Most beneficiaries who were present on the day said they now understood the importance of listening to the SoNA and were happy to own the PoA booklet.

